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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims indicating the current status of each claim and including amendments currently entered as highlighted.

1. (Currently Amended) An ornamental gemstone comprising a crown, a girdle and a pavilion, wherein said girdle is shaped such that, when viewed in plan view, said girdle is essentially bounded by eight substantially straight edges corresponding substantially to an octagon, said eight edges including four pairs of substantially parallel edges, wherein three of said four pairs of edges are spaced by a substantially equal spacing D_1 , and wherein the remaining pair of said four pairs of edges are spaced by a spacing D_2 wherein D_2 is greater than D_1 by between 10% and 40%.

2. (Original) The gemstone of claim 1, wherein said eight substantially straight edges form a shape having two perpendicular planes of symmetry.

3. (Original) The gemstone of claim 1, wherein said eight substantially straight edges form a substantially equi-angular irregular octagon.

4. (Original) The gemstone of claim 3, wherein said edges are arranged such that the largest circle which can be inscribed within said irregular octagon would touch six of said eight substantially straight edges at a tangent, and the remaining two of said eight substantially straight edges would lie totally outside the circle.

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5. (Original) The gemstone of claim 1, wherein D_2 is greater than D_1 by between 15% and 30%.

6. (Original) The gemstone of claim 1, wherein D_2 is greater than D_1 by between 20% and 25%.

7. (Original) The gemstone of claim 1, wherein said pavilion is formed with a plurality of facets shaped and angled such that said pavilion exhibits four primary ridges converging towards a culet, wherein projections of said primary ridges onto a plane of said girdle run substantially parallel and perpendicular to said two edges spaced by spacing D_2 .

8. (Original) The gemstone of claim 1, wherein said crown is formed with a table bounded at least in part by eight table edges, each of said table edges being parallel to a corresponding one of said edges of said girdle.

9. (Original) The gemstone of claim 8, wherein all of said table edges are spaced from the corresponding edges of said girdle by substantially equal distances.

10. (Original) The gemstone of claim 1, wherein said crown is formed with a plurality of facets including a set of eight facets substantially adjacent to said girdle, each of said facets being delimited in part by a pair of parallel facet edges, said pair of parallel facet edges of each of said eight facets being parallel to a corresponding one of said eight edges of said girdle.

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11. (Original) The gemstone of claim 10, wherein one of said parallel facet edges for each facet coincides with the corresponding edge of said girdle.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for cutting a gemstone from a block of gemstone material, the block having an initial shape corresponding substantially to a pyramid having a square base, the method comprising:

- (a) processing the block to generate two pairs of girdle edges lying on a square of side D_1 , where D_1 is substantially equal to the length of a side of the square base of the block;
- (b) removing material from a first pair of diagonally opposing corners of the block substantially adjacent to the base so as to generate a third pair of girdle edges separated by a distance substantially equal to D_1 ;
- (c) removing material from the second pair of diagonally opposing corners of the block substantially adjacent to the base so as to generate a pair of girdle edges separated by a distance D_2 , wherein D_2 is greater than D_1 by between 10% and 40%;
- (d) shaping the base of the block to form a plurality of crown facets; and
- (e) shaping the pyramid to form a plurality of pavilion facets,

thereby forming an ornamental gemstone having a girdle substantially bounded by said pairs of girdle edges.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said steps of removing are performed such that said girdle edges together form a shape having two perpendicular planes of symmetry.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said steps of removing are performed such that said girdle edges together form a substantially equi-angular irregular octagon.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said steps of removing are performed such that D_2 is greater than D_1 by between 15% and 30%.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said steps of removing are performed such that D_2 is greater than D_1 by between 20% and 25%.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said plurality of crown facets define a table bounded at least in part by eight table edges, each of said table edges being parallel to a corresponding one of said edges of said girdle.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein all of said table edges are spaced from the corresponding edges of said girdle by substantially equal distances.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said plurality of crown facets includes a set of eight facets substantially adjacent to said girdle, each of said eight facets being delimited in part by a pair of parallel facet edges, said pair of parallel facet edges of each of said eight facets being parallel to a corresponding one of said eight edges of said girdle.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein one of said parallel facet edges for each facet coincides with the corresponding edge of said girdle.

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